AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on p. 6, l. 26 of the specification and insert the following therefor:

--In other embodiments, ribbon stack 13 can have a corner optical waveguide(s) 12a with a predetermined mode-field and cutoff (MAC) number, thereby inhibiting optical attenuation of the corner optical waveguide when subjected to compressive forces. Stated another way, selecting corner optical waveguides with a predetermined MAC number places optical waveguides that are less sensitive to optical attenuation from compressive forces in ribbon stack locations that experience relatively high levels of compression. As used herein, MAC number is calculated as a mode field diameter (MFD) divided by a cutoff wavelength for the given optical waveguide 12a where both quantities are expressed in micrometers so that the MAC number is dimensionless. In other words, MFD is typically expressed in micrometers and cutoff wavelength is typically expressed in nanometers, so the cutoff wavelength must be divided by 1000 to convert it to micrometers, thereby yielding a dimensionless MAC number.--